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DE RUEHNE #1060 1461232
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O 261232Z MAY 09
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6723
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 7708
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 6435
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 3448
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 6361
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
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RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

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SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: INDIA JOINS INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN EXPRESSING
CONCERN OVER "UNFORTUNATE" DPRK NUCLEAR TEST

¶1. In response to North Korea's nuclear test, on May 25
India's External Affairs Ministry issued the following
statement:

"We have seen reports that DPRK has conducted a nuclear test
on 25 May 2009. For the DPRK to conduct such a test in
violation of its international commitments would be
unfortunate. Like others in the international community we
are concerned at the adverse effect on peace and security in
that region of such tests. We continue to monitor the
situation."

Additionally, in response to a question from the media,
Defense Minister A. K. Antony called the test "a development
of serious concern," noting India's overall opposition to
nuclear proliferation.

¶2. Comment. Despite the official statement's disappointingly
reserved wording -- only going as far as "would be
unfortunate" and "concerned" -- Indian media has portrayed
the GOI's reaction as a "tough stand," with The Times of
India (TOI) crediting new Foreign Minister S. M. Krishna as
"react(ing) strongly" to the event. TOI speculated that
India's stance on the issue was a signal that the new Indian
government plans to be more upfront on non-proliferation
issues, "particularly as these are expected to be uppermost
in the Obama administration."

BURLEIGH